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BOOK REVIEWS

Medical and Sanitary Inspection of Schools. By S. W. NEWMAYER, A.B., M.D. Division of Child Hygiene, Bureau of Health, Philadelphia. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febinger, 1913. Pp. vi+318.

Eighteen years of school medical inspection in America and almost forty years in foreign countries have made it unnecessary at the present date to raise the question as to why such public care should be exercised. The focus of attention seems to be a critical sifting and sorting of proposed methods, a determined effort to extend the scope of the work and to assist in disseminating the best available information.

Dr. Newmayer's book takes its place with several others of rather recent date in attempting "to give definite, rationalized plans to prevent epidemics of contagions in the schools, and to recognize and correct physical defects of school children." It is designed as a guide for physicians, nurses, and teachers, to meet not only the one-sided aim of better care of the physical aspects of child-life, but in addition "to develop a deeper appreciation of the relations of physical and mental development."

The table of contents indicates that besides the brief introductory chapter, the whole subject-matter of the book is presented under four main headings, viz., "Administration," "The School Buildings and Grounds," "Infections, Contagions, and Communicable Diseases," "Physical Defects." Much of the matter is fresh in point of view, clearly orthodox in information, and stated in straightforward, easily interpreted language. The chapter on infections and communicable diseases is especially well done for such a condensed presentation. Many valuable specimens of report-blanks are submitted, and the whole subject-matter is illustrated, though not too profusely, with seventy-one photo-prints and fourteen full-page plates. The construction and print of the book are excellent.

It must be remembered that the whole forecast of the book is outlined from the point of view of a director of school hygiene, and to get the real value and setting of the author's undertaking one must place it in its proper relation to the whole movement—the rise, development, and best future of medical inspection.

Medical inspection first originated under the motive of fear. Parents desired their children protected from actual or possible danger of communicable diseases. This motive soon gave place to the more enlightened and humanitarian one of parents and guardians demanding or approving the public policy of taking measures to remove physical defects that might prove serious handicaps to children's profiting to the fullest by such educational opportunities as they come in contact with. And finally, the still larger ideal emerges of uniting all examinations with prevention through its handmaiden, education, by proper methods in the community at large and through instruction in the schools. Departments of school hygiene that in some way effectively combine the work of community protection and correction of physical defects with instruction will more surely meet future programs than handbooks for the work of merely examining children.

Although, then, this limited field of endeavor, as represented by Dr. Newmayer, is in itself praiseworthy, nevertheless it is somewhat disappointing to find this promising text following in the wake of its numerous predecessors of late, in failing to indicate the larger possibilities of such an undertaking by outlining a progressive program of practical work and instruction, and thereby bringing inspection and supervision of the physical condition of children more into line with the real *raison d'être* of education in school life.

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